

Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 23, 1875, with transcript

Brantford, Ont., Canada? Sunday, May 23rd, 75. (Prof. A. Graham Bell, 292 Essex Street, Salem, Mass. U.S.) My dear Aleck,

We were very much pleased to receive your telegram yesterday, and shall look forward hopefully, to your promised letter. Uncle and Aunt are here today, and will stay till tomorrow, when there is to be a large party of young ladies from the College, and a bon-fire in the dale, in honor of the day when her Majesty came into this wicked world. Aunt has kindly lent us Margaret, which is a great boon, for the weather is too hot for much exertion. Uncle has got nicely settled in the new house, which is a very handsome residence. The young people we expect will all be over tomorrow. No more news yet from Edinburgh, nor from London. We saw Carrie and George last week, she was looking very well. It is possible I may get a servant through her. Pollie is still at Newport. All here except Papa, think that she and William ought to be married, it is the only reparation he can make her. In that case Miss Rye thinks she might get them started in Manitoba. Papa thinks he is too young, and that his life might be endangered. One thing is certain, she cannot live here again with him; and he is not strong enough for very hard work. She has not been behaving in a very praiseworthy 2 manner at Newport, excusing and justifying her own conduct instead of being sorry for it. She even spread a report that she might have put the child on Charley. The Dr. when she was very ill, put the question plainly to her, as to whether C. had ever had anything to do with her "No". Nevertheless if some one does not take her by the hand and put her forward, she will be utterly lost. Deaf William, if she tells the truth, has made her an offer of marriage!! I understood he was going to England, but from a letter Papa had from him yesterday, he is still here, and still wanting his old place. My being deaf as well as himself, would be a great disadvantage in case he should come, unless hearing people are in the house. Give my very kind love to Miss Fuller when you

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see her. I shall write to her as soon as I can get assistance in the house. (Tuesday) We were so busy yesterday I had no time to finish my letter. Miss Munro, from the Ladies' College, with a party of 18 were with us, as well as the ladies of Uncle's family and himself. Charlie went to a Cricket match, and intended to smuggle over a lot of gentlemen, but alas! Mrs. M. carried off all the young birds before the hawks got over, they crossed each other on the road. The gentlemen however, with the two Miss Reids and your cousins, managed to enjoy themselves and assisted us in building such a bonfire in Uncle's dale, with the brushwood lying about, as frightened me lest the whole wood should be set alight. Aunt was so kind, she came over and 3 brought Margaret with her to help me, or else I don't know how I would have got through. I hope I shall get somebody in the place of Pollie soon, for the weather is too hot for so much exertion as I have at present. William has tried in vain to get somebody to board and take care of the baby. He has gone just now or failing him, to the Mayor for them to find some one. W. undertakes to pay the board. I suppose the people are afraid the Father might run off and leave the child on their hands. That is why Papa recommended him to go to a Magistrate. You will be sorry to hear that Polly(the Horse) has become quite blind. We only found it out within these few days. Papa will be forced to get another horse and we are so sorry.

I am finishing this at Uncle's. I came in with Aunt this morning for a drive, and must now conclude, having written up my news. No, not quite—We had a letter yesterday from Mrs. Lander . She is just completing her Southern tour, and proposes a visit to us on her way home. We expect her about the end of the first week in June. She afterwards crosses the Atlantic again, and will stay in Oakley Square. Now my dear boy, with fondest love to you, and hoping to hear all good news soon, I am,

Your ever affectionate Mother, E. G. Bell. The like also from Papa and the family here. When will you be home? Papa is in hopes that I shall carry your promised letter, but there is nothing yet.